Message Text

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FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: RW

SUBJECT: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN RWANDA

REF STATE 295546

- 1. FOLLOWING ARE COUNTRY TEAM'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO GOALS TRANSMITTED REFTEL:
- 2. GOAL I. SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING: "RECONCILIATION AMONG RWANDAN ETHNIC GROUPS WITH FULL RECOGNITIONS OF MINORITY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.
- "--SUPPORT POSITIVE ONGOING RWANDAN POLICIES WHICH AIM AT OVERCOMING TRADITIONAL ENMITIES, REDUCING TENSIONS, AND ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND IN COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING BURUNDI. ENCOURAGE PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA TO PERSEVERE IN THIS DIRECTION.
- "--SUPPORT PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF AND RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS AT ALL SOCIAL LEVELS."

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3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDED CHANGES: "REINTEGRATION OF TUTSI INTO NATIONAL LIFE" (THEY ARE NOT IN FACT SECREGATED) SUGGESTS MISUNDERSTANDING OF HISTORICAL, DEEP-SEATED NATURE OF RWANDA'S ETHNIC PROBLEMS--LIKE ASKING REINTEGRATION OF ARISTOCRACY INTO NATIONAL LIFE OF JACOBEAN FRANCE. OUR AIM SHOULD BE TO SEE TENSIONS REDUCED BY TIME AND PEACEFUL COHABITATION, NOT INCREASED VIA FORCED BUSING APPROACH.

BEST WAY IS TO ENCOURAGE HABYARIMANA AND OTHERS WITH SIMILAR PROGRESSIVE OUTLOOK, WHILE HELPING TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS (E.G., MAGISTRACY) IN POSITION TO AFFECT DAY-TO-DAY PRACTICES.

- 4. GOAL II. "IMPROVED RWANDAN CAPABILITY TO FEED ITSELF," THROUGH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND "DISCOURAGE" POPULATION GROWTH.
- "--PROMOTE IMPROVEMENT IN STANDARD OF LIVING AMONG RURAL POOR VIA PROGRAMS AIMED AT GROWING MORE FOOD ON DIMINISHING AVAILABLE LANDS; AT RAISING NUTRITION AND HEALTH LEVELS, ESPECIALLY AMONG MOTHERS AND INFANTS; AND AT MAKING FAMILY PLANNING HELP AVAILABLE."
- 5. REASON: SPECIFICITY. IT'S NOT MERELY LOW RURAL LIVING STANDARDS BUT IMMINENT CATASTROPHE WHICH RWANDA (LIKE BURUNDI AND KIVU) FACES IN NEXT DECADES AS RESULT OF RAPID POPULATION GROWTH AND SHRINKING FARMLAND RESOURCES.
- 6. GOAL III. IMPROVED COOPERATION WITH US ON "REGIONAL AND" GLOBAL ISSUES.
- AD: "--SOLICIT RWANDAN VIEWS AND COLLABORATION ON ISSUES WHERE WE SHARE SIMILARITY OF INTEREST OR VIEWPOINT."

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- 7. REASON: RWANDA'S GENERALLY MODERATE STANCE ON REGIONAL ISSUES SHOULD BE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED, IN ADDITION TO SEEKING BETTER COOPERATION AT UN.
- 8. GOAL IV. GREATER "POLITICAL AND" ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN RWANDA AND ITS NEIGHBORS.
- ADD: "--SUPPORT REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TENDING TO STRENGTHEN MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AMONG CENTRAL AFRICAN NEIGHBORS (AND THUS REDUCE CHANCES OF ETHNIC HOSTILITIES) AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE POTENTIAL FOR MEETING FOOD/LAND CRISIS."
- 9. REASON: RWANDA CAN SERVE AS MODERATING AND STABILIZING POLITICAL INFLUENCE AMONG ITS NEIGHBORS, IN ADDITION TO PROMOTING MUTUAL ECONOMIC WELL-BEING. CRIGLRR

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